

Syzygium cordatum

Myrtaceae

Indigenous

- Common names:** Eng: water-berry tree; Fipa: msu; Gogo: muhulo, muhuu; Ha: msivia; Haya: mugege; Hehe: muvengi; Iraqw. orokutuno; **Kinga:** imivengi; **Nyak:** mpegele; Mate: mnyonyo, orokutuno; **Nguu:** msungunde; **Pare:** mlama; **Samb:** mshiwi; Zara: mtalala mweupe, mzati; **Zinza:** mzeze.
- Ecology:** A tree found beside fresh water in East and Central Africa and south to Natal. Occurs at medium to higher altitudes, always near water, along water courses, in riverine thickets and forests.
- Uses:** Timber (construction, furniture), food (fruit), drink (fermented fruit), bee forage, medicine (leaves, bark, roots). dye (bark).
- Description:** A medium-sized evergreen tree 8-15 m high, sometimes a flowering shrub, the crown compact and rounded from a short thick trunk, sometimes buttressed. **BARK:** dark brown, rough and fissured, breaking into small squares; **branchlets square**, edges winged. **LEAVES:** very many near the ends or branches, **clasping the stem** in opposite pairs, the **next leaf pair at right angles, leathery**, blue-green. **oblong to circular to 8 cm, leaf base heart shaped {cordatum}**. **FLOWERS:** dense, branched **clusters to 10 cm across, pink-white with conspicuous stamens**, abundant nectar. **FRUIT:** fleshy **oval to 15 cm long, purple** when ripe, edible but acid, 1 seed.
- Propagation:** Seedlings, wildings.
- Seed info.:** No. of seeds per kg: 400-450. Germination is very good and uniform, 90% after 25 days.
- treatment:** not necessary.
- storage:** can retain viability only for a day. The seed should not be dried in the sun.
- Management:** Fairly fast growing.
- Remarks:** The wood is medium hard and heavy and works well but should be water seasoned.

